

# Shepperton Allotment Association



## Newsletter Autumn 2024

### Plot Charges 2024-25

It is that time of year again. Annual plot charges become due on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Once again, the management committee has decided to keep the charges at their current level. This means that the charges for next year are:

#### Under 60 years of age

10 rods £144.00

7.5 rods £112.00

5 rods £80.00

2.5 rods £48.00

#### Over 60 years of age

10 rods £92.00

7.5 rods £73.00

5.0 rods £54.00

2.5 rods £35.00

Payment by credit transfer is the most efficient and convenient way of paying plot charges. Please make payment to

**NatWest Bank.**

**Sort Code 54-41-51.**

**Account No. 50983768.**

**Shepperton Allotments Association.**

**Ref. Your Surname & Plot Number(s).**

**It would really help our bookkeeping if credit transfer payments could be made on or after 1<sup>st</sup> October.**

We appreciate that for some a bank transfer is not possible, in which case, please make your cheque payable to

Shepperton Allotment Association and leave the signed cheque in the allotment post box with your plot number(s) on the back of the cheque. Payments in cash can only be made in exceptional circumstances and by prior agreement with the Treasurer.

All payments must be received by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

As part of the Association's support for the disabled and those with mobility issues, the Committee has also decided that no charges will be made once again for the raised beds for the coming year.

If you have any questions or have decided to give up your plot(s), please inform the Chairman (johnwhite84@aol.com) or leave a message in the allotment post box by the main gate as soon as possible. Also, if you have moved house, please remember to let us know.

### Summer Social

Blessed with ideal weather, our afternoon tea/summer social was a great success. Some 70-80 plot holders, family and friends came along to enjoy the afternoon and it was lovely to see young children there as well. Our new permanent gazebo and surrounding area was certainly put to good use.



## Annual General Meeting

Another year has passed and we need to hold our annual general meeting next month. In keeping with the successful format of the last 2 years, the meeting will be held at the Greeno Centre and as soon as the formal business has been completed, it will be followed by an informal social.

This year's meeting will be held on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October, starting at 7.30 p.m.** Please do your best to attend.

## Annual Plot Awards

As part of our routine plot inspections, we keep a particular eye on the progress made by our newcomers. Despite the indifferent conditions this year, several of our newcomers (1 full growing season) have done incredibly well and are to be congratulated.

We will be making awards at our AGM to:

Linda Ward	Lee Adams
Mattie McCarthy	Gemma Parker
David Dempster	Joan Haslegrave
Ian Stewart	

Without doubt, you will have noticed, and have been impressed by, the superb display of flowers in the raised bed nearest to the main gate. This has been planted and nurtured by Dee Crewdson,

who uses some of the other beds to grow vegetables. Thank you Dee for helping to make our site so special. In recognition of the achievement, Dee will also be presented with an award.



## Dealing with problem weeds

Most of our plots suffer to some extent from marestail and bindweed, which are difficult to eradicate through normal cultivation. Generally, we do not encourage the use of weedkillers on the site, but recently carried out a trial using an organic herbicide (made from the pelargonium plant) on one derelict plot.

The weedkiller in question is *Weedfree Plus* made by a company called Neudorff. After spraying, the weeds showed signs of being killed within an hour. After a few days, the top growth looked dead. After a month, there was some re-growth of bindweed, but there was no sign at all of any marestail. If you want to see for yourself, the treated plot is number 27C2. I have not seen *Weedfree Plus* in local garden centres, but it is readily available on line from Amazon and direct from the manufacturers.





*2 days after treatment, and*



*6 weeks later*

### **Seed scheme 2025**

Once again, we are participating in the National Allotments Society seed scheme through Kings Seeds. Prices represent a 40% discount on the retail price. We will also be supplying seed potatoes through another allotment society. Please let me know if you would like a catalogue, or pick one up from the community shed.

Completed order forms need to be returned by 31<sup>st</sup> October.

### **Weed Suppressant Membrane**

Many plot holders use weed suppressant membrane for pathways and also to cover vacant ground prior to cultivation. We can now supply this, at very favourable prices, in 2 sizes:

1 m width @ 80p per running metre

3m width @ £2 per running metre

If you would like any, please ask the Site Manager or Chairman and we will cut it for you.

### **Supporting the Wider Community**

On a sunny day in late August, a group of residents and their carers from Glendale Care Home (for dementia sufferers) visited the allotment site for a picnic lunch. They were brought by taxi and enjoyed their picnic in our gazebo. It was a great use of our facilities and most rewarding to see the obvious enjoyment they got from their visit. We look forward to further such visits in the future.



*A great use of our gazebo*

### **Winter social**

Once again, we will be organising a winter social shortly before Christmas. The format will be similar to previous years (with one BIG difference) - there will be a buffet lunch, together with mulled wine, table wines and soft drinks. Following the success of last year's event, our raffle will comprise mainly of Christmas hampers. A number of plot holders have asked to donate items for the hampers. If you wish to make any

such donations, we would be extremely grateful.

If you came to our summer social, you will have noticed that there were several children enjoying themselves (probably children or grandchildren of plot holders, rather than plot holders themselves!). As a consequence, our committee has decided to invite a special guest to our winter social - none other than SANTA CLAUS himself. We very much hope that you will bring young children with you to enjoy the occasion with us. So that we can make appropriate arrangements, it would be helpful to know in advance if you will be bringing any children, and their ages.



Our winter social this year will be held on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 12 noon to 2 p.m.**

### **Trees on the allotment**

We have received a number of complaints about trees on the allotment, from neighbouring plot holders. Overhanging trees take light away from growing areas, the roots will take up nutrients and moisture from the soil and on pathways they represent an inconvenience as well as a safety hazard.

To be clear, under the terms of the plot tenancy, only fruit trees are permitted.

Other species of tree, including Christmas trees, are not allowed. Any fruit trees and bushes must be planted at least 1 metre from the boundary of the plot and must be grown on dwarfing rootstock with a maximum height of 2.4m.

It is acknowledged that many of the taller trees have been on the site for many years, and probably were planted before the current restrictions were introduced. For this reason, the committee has always adopted a flexible approach but we are now looking to take a rather stricter line, IN THE INTERESTS OF other plot holders and their safety.

If there is an unwanted tree on your plot, please let our site manager, Ray, know so that arrangements can be made to remove it. Otherwise, we ask that you prune the tree into a more reasonable shape. For safety reasons, the committee reserves the right to cut back any trees over hanging pathways.

### **The Bonfire Plot**

Once again, we will be opening the bonfire plot (11b behind the community shed) in October for unwanted wood (pallets, edging boards, canes, etc) and tree and bush prunings ONLY. No green waste - including sweet corn plants - may be left there.

Please note that there will be restricted access to the community shed and the bonfire plot for a short while during the autumn while we have a permanent pathway constructed.